

**Town of Royalston
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Werner Bundschuh, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Andrew West, Member.

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the 9/20/05 meeting were read. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the minutes with one clarification. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) The Board received a request from the Friends of the Library for use of the Town Hall on the following dates: 11/19/05 (changed from 11/12/05), 11/20/05 and 12/4/05. The Friends have also requested permission to borrow 40 folding chairs from the Town Hall. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the requests for use of the Town Hall and to waive the fee, and also to allow the Friends to borrow the chairs. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - b) Mr. Bundschuh reported the receipt of a letter from Al Stegemann, Mass. Highway, stating that the bridge on Old Turnpike Road is now open to traffic.
 - c) The Board received a letter from the Executive Office of Public Safety stating that the Town was awarded an \$11,299 Community Policing Grant.
 - d) Mr. Kellner spoke with Laila Michaud from MRPC regarding the Town's application for CDBG funds for this year. She offered to come to the next meeting to discuss this and also to review the past grant application and why it was not awarded. Mr. Kellner will confirm Ms. Michaud's attendance at 8:00 on 10/18/05.
 - e) Mr. West expressed thanks on behalf of the Board to Harvard Forest for the computers.
 - f) Helen Divoll will follow up on the town clock numbers when the contractor who is working on the steeple returns from vacation.
 - g) Mr. West inquired with Harvard Forest and learned that they do not have any arborists on staff that could assist with planning for tree planting in town. He was referred to the Urban & Community Arborist Program. A representative from this program has offered to look at trees in town.
3. Department Head Reports:
 - a) DPW –
 - 1) Keith Newton stated that the deadline for Requests for Qualifications for Engineering Design Services on the Route 32 Project is 10 a.m. tomorrow. Interviews will begin on 10/17/05. Mr. Newton, Mr. Bundschuh, and Vyto Andreliunas, will be present at the interviews.
 - 2) Mr. Newton reported that a volunteer has redone the floor upstairs in the Town Hall and it came out very good. He recommended that the floor be done over on a consistent basis. He suggested that the Board send the volunteer a letter of thanks. Mr. West will write the letter. Also, painting of two sides of the Town Hall has been completed, and cracked clapboards and soffit work was also completed.
 - 3) He presented two articles for the 10/21/05 Special Town Meeting. Mr. West made a motion to approve the article for repairs to the 1978 720A Champion grader in the amount of \$15,000. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West made a motion to approve the article for \$9,500 to repair Warwick Road. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

4. Old Business:

- a) Dispatch Services: Wayne Newton, Fire Chief, has requested that the Board sign a letter to Winchendon notifying them that we are considering other options for dispatch services. This is a preliminary step in the process of changing from one service to another.
- b) ARRSD Regional Agreement: Mr. Kellner spoke about how the School Committee has formed an Ad Hoc Committee to review the regional agreement. The Board had previously decided not to be involved with this Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Kellner stated that changes may be proposed and there would be no representation from Royalston. There are four people who have volunteered to be on the Committee. Mr. Kellner will poll the Royalston School Committee members for their opinions on the matter.
- c) Veteran's District: Mr. Kellner made a motion to put an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant to support funding for Royalston's participation in the Veteran's District for the remainder of fiscal year 2006, in the amount of \$1,556.50. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

5. New Business:

- a) The Board has received a letter from the Trustees of Reservations regarding a hearing for planning maintenance and operation of Tully Lake and Doanes Falls, but the hearing date has passed. Discussion was held regarding whether or not the Board should support the creation of an area for water access for swimming for town residents. Mr. West would like to write a letter to this effect. Mr. West suggested writing a letter to the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Kellner will write the letter.
- b) Mr. West made a motion to appoint Barbara Richardson to the position of Town Custodian for the period ending 6/30/06. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
- c) Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to approve an article submitted by Town Accountant Lori Blanchard regarding the transfer of funds from Free Cash into the Stabilization Account. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to approve an article regarding a sum of \$20,000 for the ARRSD budget. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve an article to petition the General Court to change the Planning Board from an elected to an appointed board. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The Board received a letter from Gary Winitzer in which he requested that the Board place an article on the warrant to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the costs of Royalston withdrawing from the district. An attempt had been made to obtain signatures in order to put the article on the warrant as a citizen's petition. However, there were not a sufficient number of voters who signed the petition. Mr. West offered to respond to Mr. Winitzer's request with a letter stating that the Board is currently discussing how the Town will be represented on the Ad Hoc Committee that was formed to reopen the regional agreement, and that the Board had decided not to put this article on the warrant. Mr. Kellner made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting warrant. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
- d) Rise Richardson, Village School Lease: Ms. Richardson was present to request clarification on the issue regarding the money for the engineering survey for the water system. Mr. Bundschuh explained that the Town will apply for grant money for the water system, and if the money is awarded, the Town intends to reimburse the Village School for the money they have put up front. The money would be deducted from the rent paid by the Village School to the Town.

6. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

7. Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.